

Chicago; price \$2.00 net. This little volume, well gotten out and bound in limp cloth, should prove to be a useful book of reference for the busy practitioner who has occasional need for serums, etc., in treating the patients in an every-day practice. Apparently it is intended to be but a compilation of well-known work, and presents, in little, the sum of our present knowledge in relation to the practical side of these questions.

**A Text-Book on Alkaloidal Therapeutics**, being a condensed resume of all available literature on the subject of the active principles added to the personal experience of the authors. By W. F. Waugh and W. C. Abbott, with the collaboration of E. M. Epstein. Chicago: The Clinic Publishing Company, 1904. Price, in cloth, postpaid, \$2.50. The volume should be a valuable one for reference, to any doctor who even occasionally makes use of the alkaloids. It is well gotten up, interleaved for memoranda, and the make-up is excellent.

**The Ainu Group** at the St. Louis Exposition. By Frederick Starr. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Company. The price of the book is not stated. It contains 118 pages and a number of excellent illustrations. Its interest is purely anthropological and not at all medical. It does not pretend to be a deep study of the Ainu, but rather an account of a trip through the island of Yezo, with a description of the group brought to this country, and some general notes and reflections on the people.

**The Nature of the State**. By Paul Carus, from the Open Court Publishing Company. A little pamphlet containing excerpts from the *Open Court* dealing with the question as to the existence of the state, as such, and the duty of the citizen to the state, etc. "The argument that disproves the existence of the state and of other superindividual entities, will serve to disprove the existence of the individual." That's about what real, heavy German metaphysics does!

**The "detail man"** gets through the armor and under the hide of pretty much every doctor. The editor of the *Hahnemannian Monthly* has a few choice compliments to this particular genus of the species nuisance, and he speaks feelingly. It seems only possible to extend a little sympathy—a few kind words—to our brother in his trouble. Remember that even the "fleas have lesser fleas to bite 'em, and so the world goes on, ad infinitum."

**Sensory Distribution of the Fifth Cranial Nerve**, by Harvey Cushing, is published in the *Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin* for July-August. It is well worth careful study. The same publication contains a most excellent article on the "Chemical Origin of Leukocytes," by Dr. E. Schmoll.

"**The Development of the Hymen, Together With Its Anatomy and Pathology**," is the subject of a most excellent thesis by Dr. George Gellhorn, in the *American Journal of Obstetrics*, August. It is one of the best articles on this subject that has been published for a long time.

**Ants and Some Other Insects; An Inquiry Into the Psychic Powers of These Animals**, with an appendix on the peculiarities of their olfactory sense. By Dr. August Forel, University of Zurich. Open Court Publishing Company.

**Insurance examinations**, from various standpoints, and the effect on life expectancy of various diseases, forms the subject of a symposium by several authors in the September number of the *Canada Lancet*.

"**Indications for Cesarean Section**," by Dr. Charles D. Lockwood, Los Angeles, appears in the *American Journal of Obstetrics* for August.

**Transactions of the Florida Medical Association** for the years 1903 and 1904. No table of contents; no index; printed on good paper.

## A TRIFLING MISAPPREHENSION OF FACTS.

In the August number of the *Medical Sentinel* appeared the following:

### Do Oregon Doctors Make a Bad Impression?—

Dr. Jones, editor of the California State Medical Journal, was the guest of the Oregon State Medical Society a year ago, at which time the Oregon Society decided to make the attempt to get the next meeting of the A. M. A. at Portland; he was also a guest of honor at the banquet. Although Oregon has always been a helper of California in getting various large bodies upon the Coast for our State from the South, Dr. Jones returned to his home and began a counter movement against Oregon, in strong contrast to Dr. Anderson, of the Pacific Medical Journal, who was favorable to Portland, and a resolution was put through the State Society favorable to the meeting at San Francisco, all of which leads us to infer that the impression created in Dr. Jones' mind, from the attention and courtesy shown him, must have been very unfavorable to Portland and to the Oregon State Medical Society.

To this the writer took exception, as it very decidedly distorted his position and misrepresented his personal attitude toward the physicians of Oregon and of Portland. The following (infra) letter was at once mailed to the publication referred to, but does not appear in the September issue; its receipt was acknowledged verbally, but not by mail. It may be said, in passing, that the writer visited the last meeting of the Oregon State Medical Association, enjoyed it and himself very much, and publishes in this number of the JOURNAL a report of the meeting.

Before giving the letter mentioned, it might be as well to set forth two rather interesting telegrams that passed, unknown to me, while in Portland, August 29th to September 1st, 1904.

246-SF.P.VN.48

Portland, Ore., Aug. 29, 1904.

Dr. H. Bert Ellis,

243 Bradbury Bldg., Los Angeles.

Dr. Jones says here he was not for Los Angeles but fought for Portland at Atlantic City stating if he had been for Los Angeles she would have won claiming Oregon support for his Journal therefore. You and I know differently. Wire me immediately his well-known position at Atlantic City.

DR. H. W. COE.

511 p.m.

Of the reply I have only a copy, not so full of detail, but reading as follows:

Ellis out of town. Both Jones and Ellis instructed to vote for California. When they found California impracticable both worked for Portland.

F. D. BULLARD.

The only corrections I can suggest in the statements above made are rather trifling ones, relating merely to minor facts. I did not say I fought for Portland; I did not say that if I worked for Los Angeles she would have won; I did not ask Oregon's support for my journal; I do not own any journal; I have never asked anyone's support for what I don't own. As a member and as chairman of the publication committee of our State Society I was instructed to offer to the Oregon Association equal representative ownership in our publications; that was all. I must apologize for consuming so much space over a matter so trivial, but can only plead a desire to have the record appear clear.

To the Medical Sentinel, Portland, Oregon:

In the issue for August, of your excellent journal, you do my inconspicuous self the compliment of referring to me in the "editorial notes" in a manner that is, to say the least, hardly courteous. I did attend your last annual meeting, and thoroughly enjoyed it. I expressed the opinion, publicly and privately, that in my humble judgment it was one of the very best medical society meetings I ever attended. I accepted an invitation to attend your banquet, and greatly enjoyed both the banquet and the very witty speeches of your distinguished members. I carried away the very best possible impression of the doctors of Oregon, and subsequently the journal of which I happen to be the unfortunate editor published the longest report of the meeting that has been published, so far as I am aware. Unfortunately, however, you have been sadly misled in the balance of your statement. You say that I went south and "began a counter-movement against Oregon," and intimate that I was active in urging the passage of a resolution through our own State Society endorsing San Francisco as the place for the next meeting of the A. M. A. This is very far from the actual fact. I opposed the resolution inviting the A. M. A. to meet in San Francisco; I did not, in any way, work against Portland as the place for the next meeting. When my opinion was asked, I expressed it very frankly—that Portland was not a good place for the association to meet, *because of totally inadequate hotel accommodations and the lack of any hall of sufficient size for the general sessions, exhibits, etc.* In your own journal you have published statements which exactly support this contention.

I have not the slightest objection to taking all the kicks that are legitimately coming to me, but I must emphatically protest against those which are unearned. Personally I have done everything humanly possible to stimulate the friendly feeling between Oregon and California. In season and out of season I have deplored the fact that we physicians in these two near-by states see less of each other than we do of our fellow practitioners east of the river. It should not be. I must deplore the fact that you have distorted an honest opinion as to the inadequacy of Portland's accommodations into a personal dislike or antagonism of Oregon's physicians. It does not seem to me exactly in accord with journalistic courtesy to make the editor of an official publication responsible for the acts of the controlling society.

In the House of Delegates of the A. M. A. my hands were tied by "instructions," the passage of which I opposed at the time of our State Society meeting. When it became evident that San Francisco was quite out of the question, and I was free, I voted for Portland, in spite of my better judgment, but on the assurance of Dr. Mackenzie that hotels would be built by the time of the A. M. A. meeting. I sincerely trust that they may be, for I think another experience like those at Columbus and at New Orleans would injure the association. I have wished and do wish every success to Oregon and to Portland, and in closing can only say that all possible assistance from California will be cheerfully and gladly given, and that, so far as I, as an individual and as the editor of our society publication am concerned, your physicians have my highest regard and respect, and I will do all that I can to add to the success of the Portland meeting. Respectfully,

PHILIP MILLS JONES.

Now that the facts have been set forth, the incident is closed. "Evidently all Portland has to do is to find halls for the various sessions to assemble in and places for the visitors to sleep, and the enthusiasm of the great Pacific country and Inland Empire will do the rest."—*Medical Sentinel, September*. Yes, that's all. If we, of California, can help you in any way to find these things or aid in any other part of the work, we shall be very glad to do so.

P. M. J.

## SOME MECHANICAL ASPECTS OF SPINAL CURVATURE.—DEMONSTRATION OF WULLSTEIN'S APPARATUS.\*

By JAMES T. WATKINS, M. D., San Francisco.

THE OBJECT of this paper is to direct attention to certain mechanical aspects of the normal spine which have recently been worked out, notably by Schulthess in Zurich, by Wullstein in Halle, by Lovett in Boston and to a less degree by myself, throwing light upon the causation of lateral curvature, and from which the principles of a scientific treatment may be deduced. It is also intended to demonstrate an apparatus by means of which these theoretical considerations can be put into practice.

From the view point of the mechanician, the normal spine is a flexible rod, and subject to the laws governing flexible rods. It is capable of pure flexion, of pure extension, of side bending and of rotation. A very little side bending is said to be possible when the spine is in an attitude of about 15 degrees of flexion; but for practical purposes side bending and rotation are indissolubly associated in one compound movement, though the degree of side bending does not appear to bear a fixed relation to the degree of rotation, and vice versa; the point is, *neither occurs without the other*.

In the dorsal region where the antero-posterior diameters of the vertebrae are rather greater than their transverse diameters, when side bending from the flexed position occurs a backward rotation takes place; that is, the bodies turn on their longitudinal axes toward the convexity of the curve, and the spines toward the concavity. If the spine be hyperextended and bent to the side, the torsion is reversed; that is, the bodies turn toward the concavity, the spines toward the convexity of the curve. The back appears more prominent on the side to which the bodies rotate.

The transverse diameters of the lumbar vertebrae are greater than their antero-posterior diameters. When torsion occurs in this portion of the spine it is the reverse of the torsion that takes place in the dorsal column; that is, in flexion the bodies turn toward the concavity of the spinal curve, and in hyperextension toward the convexity. Again, "C-shaped" curvatures have been observed, postural in character, and probably originating in the lumbar spine, in which the rotation was all of the lumbar type; that is, with all the bodies looking toward the concavity of the curve.

Lateral bending then is associated with rotation. Conversely it would be expected that a primary rotation would be accompanied by lateral bending. Such is indeed the case. It has been demonstrated that if the dorsal bodies rotate to the right the spine bends to the left, and vice versa. When the lumbar spine is flexed, and rotation of the bodies occurs to either side, the spinal segment as a whole bends to that side.

If rotation occurs in either segment when it is hyperextended, it is the reverse of the rotation that would take place in the flexed spine, and is accompanied by a lateral deviation of the trunk opposite to that which would accompany rotation in the flexed position.

The phenomena of side bending and rotation as they occur in the spine can be demonstrated by means of a straight rod of soft rubber cut so that its antero-posterior and transverse diameters bear the same mutual relations that they do in corresponding segments of the spine. Torsion is said to result from any motion in which all the particles of a straight flexible rod do not move in parallel planes. The spinal column presents normally a series of antero-posterior curves; therefore, any attempt at lateral bending must be, and is, accompanied by tor-

\*Read at the Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of the State Society, Paso Robles, April 19-21, 1904.